

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.1% (1,327) reside in the Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (252) of Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.2% of admissions from the Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District were male and 25.7% were female.
- Over 67.9% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 85.1% of admissions were white non-Latino, 4% were black non-Latino, 7% were Latino, 0.9% were Asian and 2.8% were other racial categories.
- 66.3% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 15.3% were married, and 12.6% reported not to be married now.
- 23.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 58.7% completed high school, and 17.4% had more than high school education.
- 27.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 11.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 12.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

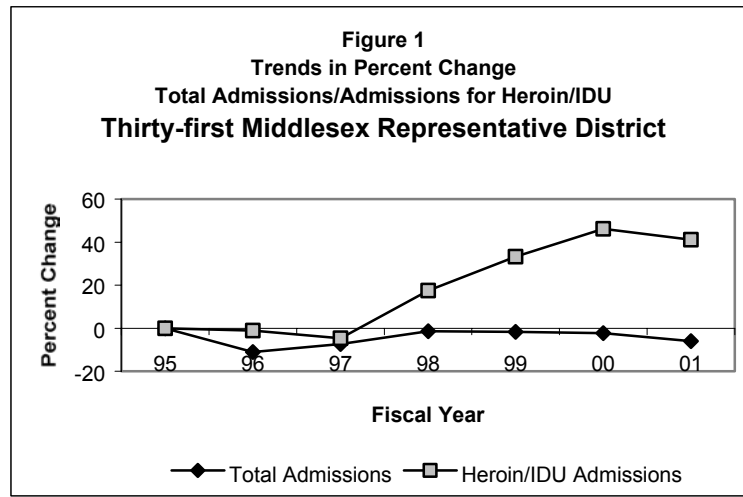
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,412	1,121	450	516	336	447	294
FY '96	1,256	918	384	429	306	447	286
FY '97	1,309	1,042	417	418	234	419	287
FY '98	1,392	1,036	369	408	198	517	353
FY '99	1,387	986	342	387	182	560	427
FY '00	1,380	942	367	403	189	624	459
FY '01	1,327	862	289	337	122	612	434

- Since FY 1995, residents of Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in alcohol use, but a steady rise in heroin use. Alcohol use decreased by 23%, while heroin use increased by 46%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana, cocaine, and crack use decreased by 35%, 34% and 47%, respectively.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities fell 6.0% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 41.2%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirty-first Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	37.5%	41.6%	3.9%	4.2%	1.3%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher, and, alcohol, marijuana, and crack was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000